

Appln. No.: 10/562,194

Reply to Office action of November 17, 2006

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

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1-11(Cancelled).

12(Currently Amended). A cylinder head gasket for an internal combustion engine, insertable for the sealing of components having at least one T-junction, said gasket having at least one functional portion, at least one distance portion, and at least one seal element provided in the region of the T-junction wherein the distance portion has at least one recessed region extending less than completely through said distance portion to having a seal engaging bottom surface, said recessed region receiving a portion of said seal element.

13(Previously Amended). A cylinder head gasket of claim 12 wherein the seal element protrudes outwardly from the recessed region in the direction of at least one of the sealed components and is detached from said at least one functional portion.

14(Previously Amended). A cylinder head gasket of claim 12 wherein the distance portion in the region of the seal element is associated with at least one functional portion, said functional portion has an opening sized to receive said seal element therethrough in detached fashion.

15(Previously Amended). A cylinder head gasket according to claim 14, wherein the recessed region has a larger surface in cross-section than said opening.

16(Previously Amended). A cylinder head gasket according to claim 15, wherein at least a part of said opening is provided above the recessed region and is essentially parallel thereto.

17(Previously Amended). A cylinder head gasket according to claim 12, wherein the recessed region is generally oval in form.

18(Previously Amended). A cylinder head gasket according to claim 12, wherein the seal element is partially supported on a boundary region of the distance portion surrounding the recessed region.

19(Previously Amended). A cylinder head gasket according to claim 12, wherein the seal element is arranged in the recessed region without contacting boundaries of the recessed region and is supported by said bottom surface of the recessed region.

20(Canceled).

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21(Currently Amended). A cylinder head gasket according to claim [[12]] 14, at least one hollow channel in said functional portion is in open communication with the opening and said seal element is partially received in said channel.

22(Previously Amended). A cylinder head gasket according to claim 12, wherein the seal element comprises at least one silicone worm introduced in the recessed region.